SI.No.	Name of the projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
i.	Ramayana Mela at Chitrakoot	2.50
ii.	Construction of Interpretation centre/Shopping centre, Fatehpur Sikri	495.80
iii.	Ganga Festival at Varanasi	2.50
iv.	Development and beautification of Ram-ki-Paidi in Ayodhya	98.18

(c) No specific targets have been fixed. However, the aim of the Government is to develop at least one destination in every State as a hub of tourism, culture clean civic life and healthy environment during the 10th Plan.

Development of Pilgrim Tourism

1502. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is inching its way to being a prefered tourist destination for the sophisticated traveller;

(b) if so.whether this year, India ranked ninth in UK-based magazine survey;

(c) whether Government have given a major thrust to the development of pilgrim tourism in the country and the decision was taken at the Sourthern Tourism Minister's Conference held in Hyderabad in August-September, 2003; and

(d) what other projects are being considered to make tourists spots in the country fit for foreign tourists also?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Readers Award of Condenast Traveller - a leading International Travel Journal has selected India as one of the ten preferred destinations of the world.

(c) The National Tourism Policy-2002 focuses on development of domestic tourism particularly tourism connected with pilgrimage. According to the Department of Tourism, Govt, of Andhra Pradesh, it was decided in the conference to develop "inter and intra-tourism circuits" within the Sourthern States and to introduce Southern tourist train.These initiatives are expected to boost pilgrim tourism in the country.

(d) The Department of Tourism, Govt, of India has formulated following schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the development of tourism infrastructure including tourist spots to attract both domestic and foreign tourists:

(i) Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits.

(ii) Products/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

(iii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Central assistance for development of beaches

1503. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are extending financial assistance to develop the beaches in the States in order to attract tourists in a big way;

(b) if so, the details of beaches developed so far with the assistance from the Central Government;

(c) the assistance extended to Andhra Pradesh for the development of beacnes; and

(d) the beaches proposed to be developed in the State in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism also sanctions projects at important tourist places in the